

# Spectrum

## Canadian linemen strengthen ties



**Siobhan Carlile**  
Staff Writer

Signal Soldiers of 1 Line Squadron, Canadian Forces Joint Signal Regiment, based in Kingston, Ontario visited Fort Gordon Jan. 15-16 to train with U.S. Army Signal Soldiers at Fort Gordon.

The Linemen, many of them with recent experience in Afghanistan, conducted briefings and training exercises Jan. 15 at the Fort Gordon Pole Orchard, where U.S. Army Signal linemen, known as cable dogs, train. Together the Soldiers demonstrated their pole climbing, rescue operations and fiber cable splicing.

Canadian Forces Liaison Officer, Maj. Neil McKenna helped coordinate the visit. "Despite all the policies, guidelines, directions and regulations written on allied interoperability, the bottom line is that it normally comes down to two young Soldiers meeting on a battlefield in a remote part of the world putting their heads together to make it work. What we have achieved here with this visit is to let each other know that we are here for each other, we are establishing ties so that the next time they see each other's uniform, wherever that may be in the world, they know they have just found a battle buddy and a trusted ally, he said."

During their visit the linemen participated in an early morning PT session, toured the Signal Museum and visited the Fort Gordon Fisher House where they presented a donation of \$500 and a pair of hockey sticks to show their appreciation of the assistance the Fisher House has given to Canadian Forces' Family members in Landstuhl Germany.

McKenna summed it up when he said, "Regardless of the color or pattern of the uniform, there is something unique and undefinably special about being a lineman, or a 25L in U.S. terms. The 'cable dogs' of the U.S. and the Linemen from Canada immediately recognized this brotherhood of their trade, the expertise demonstrated by each other and the common mission of them both...to do whatever it takes to get the message through."

This is the first visit of its kind to Fort Gordon.



Illustration by Tammy Moehman



(Above) Pvt. Candice Cahill gets one last safety briefing from Corporal Sebastien Wauthier before she goes up. (Below right) Francisco Cruz, Fisher House manager takes the Soldiers on a tour through the kitchen. The Soldiers donated \$500 in support of the Fisher House.



Trainee "Cable Dogs," from the 369th Signal Battalion maneuver themselves around the poles before they start their descent in a



(Above) Members of the 1Line Squadron bring Pvt. Chris McCabe down safely during a rescue demonstration. (Below) McCabe is loaded onto a stretcher and breathes a sigh of relief to be down off the pole.



Photos by Siobhan Carlile



Robert Anzuoni, U.S. Army Signal Corps Museum director waves a signal flag as it was used during the Civil War. He presented a concise history of the Signal Corps; explaining how the organization has evolved over time as technology and missions have changed.